

and hence demand great care to be rightly understood.

STUDIES IN JOEL

INTRODUCTION

I. The Author.—We know nothing more than that he was the son of Pethuel and that his field of labor was probably Jerusalem.

II. Date.—Two extreme views are held, viz., (1) That it is of, if not, the oldest prophetic writing extant, and (2) that it is of Post-exilic origin. To me the first view seems to be the best supported by the evidence. Critics place the time in the reign of Joash. We shall not be far wrong to indicate the date as about 837.

III. Occasion.—A fearful locust plague has visited the land. This is followed by a burning drought. The prophet siezes upon these calamities and the consequent sufferings of the whole land and declares them to be divine chastisements. This interpretation gives him occasion to utter a warning cry in which he declares God's revelation in the world under the imagery of the coming Messianic Kingdom and the impending General Judgment.

THE WEEK'S WORK

1. Read the book at one sitting.
2. Read the second time and make an outline of its contents.
3. Provide a pencil tablet and make notes as you read. This is *important*.
4. The love of the work must be your inspiration.

J. ALLEN MILLER.

Hiram, Ohio.

SERMONS IN QUAIN TEXTS

Text: Then stood up Jeshua . . . and his brethren . . . and builded the altar of the God of Israel. Ezra 3: 2.

The people began at the right place—the altar. They were directed by the Lord and preparations were being made to build the temple. The foundation was not yet laid, but the people need an altar before they need a temple. Worldly wisdom would have suggested that the foundation be laid first then the walls erected upon it, and after that the altar, but that was not and is not God's way. You can get along without a house in which to worship but you can not get along spiritually without an altar. A house in which to worship God without an altar is like a body from which the spirit has taken its departure. Here is the divine order in building up the church and the individual spiritual life, both of which are God's temple. Begin from within. You cannot make the church strong by adding members, it is the *altar* in the heart of it that gives it power with God. Count your members by the millions and your wealth in gold, but without the altar and the spirit of prayer the church is as nothing and will go down before the enemy like stubbles before a raging fire. Keep the cross—the great altar of redemption—ever in the forefront of your life. Set up the altar of self dedication, of prayer, then you may have the power with God. Thus too you must build up your character. Do not begin by chopping

off a few branches or limbs here and there. They will grow again; begin from within and work out. Evil habits must be destroyed at the root. To trim off a cancer will not cure it, destroy the root and it will die. Crucify the flesh, the feeder of all evil habits, let the spirit of God enter the heart, and reformation will follow. If you would arrest the flowing waters of a stream, dry up the fountain.

Text: When will the new moon begone, that we may sell corn? Amos 8: 5.

Referring to the first day of the month which was a holiday and all business was supposed to be suspended by God's people. They observed these sacred days in their outward life but their hearts were far from God. They begrudged the time that was given to the service of the Lord. They longed for the return of the business days that they might resume their buying and selling.

Perhaps corn had a good price and they longed for the day to pass that they might take it to market. The church of today is not free from that form of worldliness which is at the sanctuary on Sabbath day in body, but in heart is doing worldly business. There is not much pleasure in worship and no blessings at all, when the heart is full of week day thoughts, schemes and plans for money making. After the dedication of a large and commodious house to the service of God, a prominent deacon who was a manufacturer of cotton and woollen goods, was asked how he enjoyed the service. He answered that he could not tell much about it as he could not help thinking all the way thro the service what an excellent room that would make for his machinery and how many spindles he could set in motion. That man was in the house of God and yet he was not. It is sad to say that some people calculate interest and plan business schemes during the sacred hour of prayer, yea, while the pastor leads the congregation in prayer they are selling goods.

Church News

Buckeye City, Ohio

The Brethren of Buckeye City are still marching Zionward and striving to conquer the foe in their corner of the field. Our communion service was an enjoyable feast. The absence of some from the table marred the pleasure of the occasion to some extent.

Our late business meeting resulted in the almost final payment of our church debt. Our sisters deserve great credit in this work. They realized about \$45 from a quilt which they made, which amount they applied on the debt. It was, however, by the suggestion and aid of a worthy brother, who deserves much credit, that the plan was carried out. Another little pull and we are clear of debt. We are making some internal improvement and look for some grand results in the near future.

Fraternally,

H. M. OBERHOLTZER.

Ashland University

The following shows the apportionment fund, giving the names of districts and congregations that have adjusted their apportionments, and also those yet remaining delinquent:

OHIO DISTRICT

	Adjusted	Delinquent
Louisville,	\$200 00	
Ashland,	125 00	
Middlebranch,	100 00	
North Georgetown,	125 00	
Ankenytown,	150 00	
Bryan,	40 00	
Bear Creek,	160 00	
Miamisburg,	150 00	
Fairview,	75 00	\$ 60 00
Glenford,	135 00	
Buckeye City,	65 00	
Dayton,		25 00
Dry Creek,		55 00
Farmersville,	38 00	17 00
Homersville,	75 00	75 00
North Liberty,	120 00	
Pleasant Hill,		160 00
Silver Creek,	55 00	
Troy,		50 00
Winchester,	123 50	41 50
West Independence,	45 00	65 00
Gretna,	35 50	19 50
West Alexandria,	67 00	68 00
Williamstown,	10 00	140 00
Bloomers,		25 00
Zion's Hill,	55 00	
Mt. Zion,	50 00	
Fair Haven,	200 00	
	\$2199 00	\$801 00

INDIANA DISTRICT

South Bend,	\$100 00	
Auburn,	52 50	
Fairview,		\$100 00
Elkhart,		52 50
Pleasant View,		52 50
Mt. Union,	35 00	
Dunlaps,	52 50	
Tiosa,	35 00	
LaPaz,		35 00
New Highland,		52 50
Burns' Chapel,	8 50	26 50
Claypool,	25 00	
Sydney,	25 00	
New Enterprise,		12 50
Union Salem,	12 50	
North Manchester,		100 00
Clear Creek,		25 00
Roanoke,	40 00	60 00
Zanesville,		100 00
Eaton,		100 00
Burn,	10 00	15 00
Warsaw,	40 00	
Oakville,		100 00
Salem,		100 00
Edna Mills,	9 00	16 00
Mt. Pleasant,		100 00
Flora,		35 00
Brighton,	55 25	44 75
Mexico,		100 00
Twelve Mile,	12 50	
Milford,	100 00	